

Remarks

If necessary, applicant requests an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for response to the office action mailed on May 25, 2005. Any late fees due are to be charged to the deposit account 502,083 of the agent, Mark Nowotarski, of the applicant.

Amended Claims

Applicant has amended claims, and cancelled claims. Current claims as amended are referred to herein as "current claims". Prior claims that were examined for the office action mailed May 5, 2005, are referred to herein as "prior claims".

Claims 1 to 10 and claims 12 to 25 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 11 has been amended to include all of the limitations of prior dependent claim 12.

Current claim 26 is the same as prior claim 26.

Responsive to the office action mailed May 25, 2005:

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 1-5, 14, 15, and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lange, US patent 5,242,035. Claims 1-5, 14, 15 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 6-8, 9-11, 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lange. Claims 6-8, 9-10, 16 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 11 has been amended to include all of the limitations of prior claim 11 and prior claim 12. The examiner has found that prior claim 12 would be allowable if it included all of the limitations of prior claim 11 and any intervening claims. Applicant has equivalently amended prior claim 11. Hence current claim 11 is now allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The examiner has found that prior claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (i.e. prior claim 11) and any intervening claims. Applicant has equivalently amended prior claim 11 to include the limitations of prior claim 12. Hence current claim 11 is allowable.

The examiner has further found that claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 26 is already in independent form. Hence current claim 26 is allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Mark Nowotarski, Applicants' Agent, at 203 975 7678 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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